

News Release

NEW YORK WING
CIVIL AIR PATROL
U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY

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FIGHTER WING COMMANDER OFFICIATES AT GRADUATION

53 UPSTATE NEW YORKERS COMPLETE CAP'S SQUADRON LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

SYRACUSE -- Fifty-three men and women from across upstate New York graduated from Civil Air Patrol Squadron Leadership School held recently at the Air National Guard's 174th Fighter Wing at Hancock Field.

"The Civil Air Patrol is a vital part of the Air Force," Col. Robert Knauff, 174th commander, told the graduates, who are volunteers involved in aerospace education, cadet programs, search and rescue, and Homeland Security. "The Civil Air Patrol rounds out the Total Force with unique capabilities and a hometown affiliation that is irreplaceable. I commend your leadership for what CAP brings to America."

The 174th Fighter Wing co-hosted the Squadron Leadership School with CAP's Central New York Group, which is commanded by Maj. Thomas Carello of Syracuse. Instructors came from both Group and New York Wing staffs, under the direction of school director Maj. Eric Kroon of Cassadaga and assistant director Maj. Mark Cashin of Mattydale.

Colonel Knauff personally congratulated and presented a diploma to each graduate. The graduates (listed by area, last name, first name, rank, unit) are:

Niagara Falls Area

Baldwin, Thomas SM, Niagara Falls Composite Squadron
Evans, Ernest 2Lt, Western New York Group Staff
Owen, Martin SM, Niagara Falls Composite Squadron
Rothberg, Diane SM, Niagara Falls Composite Squadron

Dunkirk Area

Ellington, Donald 1Lt, Concorde Senior Squadron

- more -

Perry Area

Gardner, Scott 1Lt, Condor Composite Squadron
Stearns, Deborah 2Lt, Condor Composite Squadron

Rochester Area

Amaud, Jean-Pierre SM, Rochester Composite Squadron
Chalmers, Kevin SM, Rochester Composite Squadron
Choquette, Aldea SM, Rochester Composite Squadron
McKeeby, Donald 1Lt, Rochester Composite Squadron
Nugent, Janet 2Lt, Rochester Composite Squadron
Sheffer, Christine 2Lt, Rochester Composite Squadron
Sheffer, Timothy 2Lt, Rochester Composite Squadron
Welsh, Andrew Capt, New York Wing Staff

Canandaigua Area

Bailey, Scott SM, Canandaigua Composite Squadron
Hasard, Larry 1Lt, Canandaigua Composite Squadron
McClure, James 2Lt, Canandaigua Composite Squadron
McKelvey, John SM, Canandaigua Composite Squadron
Miles, David 1Lt, Canandaigua Composite Squadron
Miller, Michael 2Lt, Canandaigua Composite Squadron
Stehling, William Capt, Canandaigua Composite Squadron

Syracuse Area

Conway, Timothy SM, Syracuse Composite Squadron
Erskine, Kristopher 2Lt, Syracuse Composite Squadron
Harris, Phillip 1Lt, Central New York Group Staff
Lauricella, Richard SM, Central New York Group Staff
Luebs, John 1Lt, Syracuse Cadet Squadron
Main, Patricia 1Lt, Central New York Group Staff
Newell, Peter 1Lt, Central New York Group Staff
Phillips, Kenneth 1Lt, Syracuse Cadet Squadron
Ruebsamen, Gary SM, Syracuse Composite Squadron
Thomas, Rodney Capt, Central New York Group

Fulton Area

Attle, James 2Lt, Greater Oswego Composite Squadron
Bullard, Fred, Jr. LtCol, Greater Oswego Composite Squadron
Holdren, Earl III 1Lt, Greater Oswego Composite Squadron
Lamay, Robert SM, Greater Oswego Composite Squadron
Pomerleau, Roland 2Lt, Greater Oswego Composite Squadron
Sussey, Francis Capt, Greater Oswego Composite Squadron
Sussey, Grant SM, Greater Oswego Composite Squadron
Zellar, Horace 1Lt, Greater Oswego Composite Squadron

- more -

Utica Area

Paquette, Timothy SM, Utica Composite Squadron
Stronach, Robert SM, New York Wing Staff

Schenectady Area

Cornelius, Francis II 2Lt, Schenectady Composite Squadron
Wallace, James 2Lt, Schenectady Composite Squadron

Oneonta Area

Hewett, Judith 1Lt, Midway Cadet Squadron
Smith, Kenneth 2Lt, Midway Cadet Squadron

Binghamton Area

Lipski, Francis 2Lt, Broome-Tioga Composite Squadron

Little Valley Area

Land, James SM, Southern Tier Composite Squadron
Rinehart, Donald 2Lt, Southern Tier Composite Squadron
Steinbar, Daniel 2Lt, Southern Tier Composite Squadron
Whipple, Shawn SM, Southern Tier Composite Squadron
Wilkins, Duane 1Lt, Southern Tier Composite Squadron
Wilkins, Natalie 2Lt, Southern Tier Composite Squadron

The Civil Air Patrol, the official Air Force Auxiliary, is a nonprofit organization chartered by Congress. It performs 95% of inland search-and-rescue missions in the continental United States tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Langley Air Force Base, VA. CAP is often called upon during natural and other disasters such as the attack on the World Trade Center, floods, storms, and forest fires. Volunteers also take a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to America's youth through CAP cadet programs.

Even though the U.S. Air Force now has placed CAP under its Homeland Security directorate, homeland defense is not a new role for CAP volunteers. CAP flew over 87,000 anti-submarine and border patrol sorties during the Second World War, earning its members the nickname, "The Flying Minutemen". CAP aircraft and crews across the state routinely respond to search-and-rescue and disaster relief needs. The New York Wing has a fleet of 17 planes and is composed of nine Groups that oversee 58 squadrons.

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